

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 and 11-12 and objected to claims 3-10 and 13-20. Applicants have amended Claims 1-10. Claim 19 was amended to fix a grammatical error. Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-2 and 11-12. Claims 1-20 are pending after entry of this amendment.

I. Response to Examiner's Remarks

The Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on German Patent Application No. 102 55 642.3 that was sent to the USPTO on July 12, 2004, but states that the priority document was not filed. The Applicant's records show that the priority document was filed on the same date, July 12, 2004, as the claim for foreign priority. Furthermore, a check of the file wrapper available on the PAIR system shows that an artifact sheet indicates that a bound document which could not be scanned was received by the USPTO on July 15, 2004. The certified copy of the priority document is a bound document and would have arrived about that date. A copy of the artifact sheet, as well as a copy of the cover of the priority document that was mailed on July 12, 2004, is attached to this response. It is respectfully submitted that the priority document was filed with the USPTO on July 12, 2005, and that it arrived no later than July 15, 2005. Applicants are willing to submit a replacement certified priority document if the Examiner deems that another submission is necessary.

II. Drawings

The drawings have been changed to reflect that capacitors 11 and 12 are variable capacitors as required by the Examiner. A replacement sheet with these changes to Figure 2 has been attached to this amendment. No new matter has been added with the amended drawings.

III. Claim Objections

Claims 1-10 are objected to because of the use of the term "process" rather than "method." Applicants have corrected the term at the suggestion of the

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

A corrected replacement sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) is attached to this amendment with the required changes.

1. Figure 2 has been redrawn to show the variable capacitors.

Examiner by amendment. Applicants also amended claim 19 to remove a grammatical error that was discovered during a review of the claims. This amendment is not made for reasons of patentability as the claimed subject matter has not been further limited in any way, and the amended term and grammar are construed to be only tangentially related to patentability.

IV. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 11 and 9 under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gabara et al. (US Patent No. 6,107,882). Examiner states that Gabara et al. teaches all the claimed features in Fig. 8A.

Claim 1 recites a method of supplying a driver stage with a current via a positive and a negative current supply connection. Claim 1 also includes limiting the current to a current limit value via a positive and/or negative current supply connection, and temporarily increasing the current flowing via an output of the stage driver in synchronization with the edges of at least one trigger signal of the driver stage, wherein the increased current is provided via a capacitor to increase the output current of the driver stage.

Claim 11 recites a device that outputs a digital signal having a driver stage that receives a supply current via a positive and a negative current connection. The device also has a current increase signal increasing the current flowing via an output of the driver stage in synchronization with the edges of at least one control signal of the driver stage; and a capacitor generating an increased current to increase the output current of the driver stage.

Gabara discloses in Figure 8A, a capacitor C1 that is connected between two resistors R₁ and R₂ and is connected to ground. The combination of the capacitor and the resistors forms a low pass filter where C1 shunts high frequency signals to ground. The combination of the capacitor and the resistors determines an RC time constant. The RC time constant as presented in this device forms a delay between the application of the input signal V_{in-} and V_{in+} forming a feedback signal that is applied to the operational amplifier (op-amp) 810. Therefore, when an input signal is applied, the feedback signal applied to the op-amp 810 is also dependent upon the signal at the output, therefore the feedback signal may not be synchronized with the input signal. This analysis finds support in the specification which states that "the RC network, which functions as a low pass filter, generates the average dc voltage of the

output signal and provides the offset detection signal at the non-inverting input (node 815) of op-amp 810. See col. 7, ll. 10-13.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach all of the elements of the claim in question. Here, Gabara fails to teach all of the elements of claims 1 and 11. In particular, claims 1 and 11 each have an element that recites the increase of current flowing via an output of the driver stage in synchronization with the edges of at least one trigger signal of the driver stage. Further, the increased current is provided via a capacitor to increase the output current of the driver stage.

Gabara does not increase the current flowing via the output of the driver stage in synchronization with the edge of at least one trigger signal of the driver stage. In fact, the output current of the circuit of Gabara lags the trigger signal since the capacitor C1 is connected to ground and the current may be increased to ground via the capacitor. As Gabara states in the specification, the RC network generates the average dc voltage of the output signal and applies the average voltage signal to the op-amp 810. Therefore, Gabara does not anticipate at least the element of "increase of current flowing via an output of the driver stage in synchronization with the edges of at least one trigger signal of the driver stage" found in claims 1 and 11.

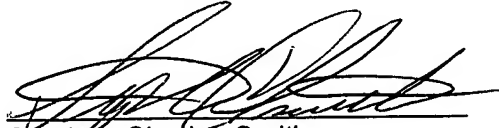
Claims 2 and 12 are dependent claims, depending upon independent claims 1 and 11 respectively. As stated above, claims 1 and 11 contain patentable limitations that are not anticipated by Gabara. Therefore, claims 2 and 12, which depend from patentable claims 1 and 11 respectively, are patentable for at least the same reasons. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the examiner to withdraw the rejection to claims 2 and 12.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner would allow claims 3-10 and 13-20 if they were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. However, Applicants believe that claims 1-2 and 11-12 are currently patentable, therefore, claims 3-10 and 13-20 have not been amended to include the limitations of those independent and intervening claims.

V. Conclusion

In view of the response above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, as well as the application, and seek an early allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Charles Smith', written over a horizontal line.

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